GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2504
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
DISTORTED MAP BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES
Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that instances of international bodies and some countries bringing out map of the country indicating J&K and some North-Eastern States as disputed or independent entities have been on the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the frequency of such actions by other countries along with details of such countries and world bodies which have been repeatedly making such deliberate mistakes; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to not only get such maps rectified but also to overcome such recurring instances?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (d): Each country/international body follows its own practice with regard to depiction of international boundaries. The United Nations follows a standard format for depicting India's external boundaries in UN maps, in particular those relating to J&K and Arunachal Pradesh. This includes identifying the agreed Line of Control in the case of India-Pakistan border areas, and the respective claim lines of India and China with regard to the boundary question in western and eastern sectors. UN maps carry a specific disclaimer regarding J&K saying − "Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties." UN maps also carry a general disclaimer saying − "The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN."

As and when any map depicting Indian borders inaccurately is brought to the notice of Ministry of External Affairs, in case the publisher is located outside the country, the matter is taken up promptly through our concerned Indian Mission. The Mission advises the concerned publisher/agency to rectify the mistake, and impresses upon them not to repeat the said distortions/discrepancies in their future publications. Wherever necessary the Mission/Post also supplies the accurate latest political map of India to the concerned agency, which contributes towards preventing/discouraging recurrence of such instances.

In case the publisher of such inaccurate maps is located within India, the matter is taken up with the Survey of India for examination vis-Ã -vis the approved international boundary of India and thereafter referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary legal action.